

### **3/5/2015 Testimony of Stacey Zimmerman SEIU CT State Council**

#### **Support**

#### **HB 6784 AN ACT EXPANDING PAID SICK LEAVE**

#### **HB 6932 AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE**

Chairman Tercyak and Gomes distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Stacey Zimmerman; I am here today representing the Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council the state's largest labor union with over 65,000 members.

SEIU strongly supports HB 6784 AN ACT EXPANDING PAID SICK and HB 6932 AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE. Both of these bills are important steps in bringing Connecticut to the forefront of the country and on par with most of the industrialized world in the recognition that public health and worker productivity are greatly benefited when employees can take time to recover from their own illness or care for a family members in need.

Whether needing a sick day or an extended leave, the fear of losing your job or being disciplined is the last worry you need during a family crisis. The added stress on one's life is not good for the illness and not good for the workplace but what is one supposed to do when the financial future of your family depends on you being at your job no matter what tragedy big or small is occurring.

Connecticut has a chance to lead the country once again in worker protections and public health. We can lead the way, in bringing America into the modern age and catch up with the rest of the world with common sense protections not just for the individual but society as a whole.

Many people will talk of the specific language of each bill and research that supports the passage of this legislation yet in the end it seems very simple; it's just the right thing to do. The world didn't implode with the passage of paid sick days 4 years ago in fact many Connecticut citizens' lives were improved and slowly the nation is following our lead. Let us lead again.